

Shawn B. Sheekey, Acting Chief Administrator

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Sheekey Takes the Reins

Longtime Deputy Chief Administrator Shawn Sheekey assumed the role of Acting Chief Administrator following the resignation of Sharon Harrington on July 2. In naming him to the position, Governor Corzine highlighted Sheekey's years of experience in motor vehicle services and direct involvement with many of the popular reforms that have taken place over the last six years. Sheekey joined the former Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) in July 2002 and was instrumental in the historic overhaul of motor vehicle services, which included the successful launch of New Jersey's first state-of-the-art Digital Driver License (DDL) and 6 Point ID Verification System, introduction of comprehensive employee document fraud and customer service training and the deprivatization of more than 40 motor vehicle agencies with over 600 employees. In his capacity as Acting Chief Administrator, Mr. Sheekey also serves as President of the Region 1 Board of Directors for the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators (AAMVA), as well as a member of its

International Board.

Another Facility Accomplishment

Investments in the MVC's physical infrastructure continued over the last several months as Hunterdon County became home to the newest prototype agency to be built on state-owned land. Opening to the public on July 29, the new Flemington Agency on Routes 31/202 replaced a small, leased facility in Cinema Plaza in Flemington. The customer-friendly facility, funded through a 2003 bond, provides nearly 7,000 square feet of operationally efficient space to meet the motor vehicle needs of Hunterdon

County and the surrounding areas. The Flemington Agency joins Freehold as one of two modernized facilities to be brought from the design board to reality, making good on the MVC's promise to continue positive progress in the areas of service, security and safety.

Driver Testing Modernization

With its driver testing system reaching its 20th year of existence, the MVC took another positive step forward in July as it announced the beginning of a major overhaul of both the knowledge and road tests. Through a new system known as the Driver and Road Test Scoring System (DARTSS), the MVC will modernize its existing Automated Driver License Testing (ADLT) system with a Web-based solution that will provide greater security and improved efficiency. The DARTSS project is expected to run through late spring 2010 and will introduce a new system that integrates real time information sharing with more efficient data capturing, fraud prevention mechanisms, user-friendly testing and most importantly, reliability. Highlights of DARTSS include GPS tracking of road tests, applicant-specific randomized tests, visual ID verification for applicants and wireless communication of test information that will reduce paper. The current ADLT system, which runs on Windows 95 technology, is prone to glitches and viruses that periodically disrupt testing and is not conducive to many of the streamlined processes enacted in recent years.

Back to School

With the yellow buses ready to roll for the 2009-10 school year, Acting Chief Administrator Shawn Sheekey, joined by Department of Education Assistant Commissioner Barbara Gantwerk and Mercer County Schools Superintendent Dr. Samuel Stewart, brought attention to New Jersey's strict inspection program for school transportation. With more than 78,000 inspections and re-inspections conducted each year, MVC inspection teams are hard at work throughout the year ensuring that each school vehicle is road worthy. The MVC also



provides parents with peace of mind with its searchable, online report card, which notes recent inspection information for each school bus.

Stopping Fraud and Abuse

Through the hard work and dedication of MVC employees, a number of criminal cases have been launched throughout New Jersey, ridding the state of fraud and abuse. Alertness and close attention to detail led a Paterson Agency clerk to catch alleged criminal activity that eventually brought a 25-count indictment of a Hackettstown man who now faces more than 10 years in prison and over \$150,000 in fines in relation to registering a stolen vehicle valued at more than \$80,000. Following the MVC clerk's tip, the MVC's Division of Security, Investigations and Internal Audit began a 12-month, joint investigation with the Passaic County Sheriff's Office, City of Paterson Police, Office of the Insurance Fraud Prosecutor and the National Insurance Crime Bureau, which uncovered a counterfeit title scheme involving eight stolen vehicles from New York. The investigation also led to the recovery of all eight stolen vehicles valued at \$400,000.

MVC Business Licensing staff also played an integral role in pushing for an investigation of a Bergen County dealership involved in the sale of Mercedes Benz vehicles on the European black market. Following a year-long, multi-agency investigation, 27 individuals were arrested in connection with the international scheme along with seizure of approximately \$750,000 in illegal proceeds and 28 vehicles.

Environmental Leadership

Announcing the winners of its first ever Environmental Leadership Award, AAMVA recognized the MVC and its partner, the Department



of Environmental Protection (DEP), for the joint agency, public education campaign known as NJ Inspections: Making the Garden State Safer and Greener. The campaign received top honors out of 13 entries from around North America. Entries were judged in four categories: program innovation, cost savings/avoidance, environmental benefit and program effectiveness. Since its launch in April 2009, the NJ Inspections campaign has utilized videos, a web site (www. njinspections.com) and printed materials to communicate federally-mandated clean air messages, as well as encourage vehicle owner responsibility through helpful maintenance tips, energy efficiency through "green" driving and provide assistance in preparing for an inspection.

COMP Overhaul Making Progress

Work continues on the overhaul of the MVC's core computer system. First up for the new Motor Vehicle Automated Transaction System (MATRX) will be to update the current permitting, driver and business licensing processes, vehicle registration and titling, driver history and third party information sharing systems. The project, which kicked off earlier this year, includes an up to date set of tools and infrastructure, as well as updated business functions. Key features of the new system include more data entry automation (swiping of bar codes as on the driver license and VIN decoding) to pre-fill data, document imaging as part of transaction processing for easy accessibility to those images, more self service Web functions for business partners and customers and improved reporting. Functions will be rolled out in phases beginning in summer 2010 with imaging and enhanced security management.